



I'm always proud to host the UConn Husky Men's Basketball team—shown here in my office—during their annual visit for Husky Day at the State Capitol.

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 29th state Senate District is ensuring Brooklyn, Canterbury, Putnam, Thompson, Windham, Scotland, Mansfield and Killingly receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2008–2009:

	Fiscal Year 08-09
Total Education Grants	\$81,145,305
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$1,122,611
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$2,796,606
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$907,540
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$13,273,284
Total	\$99,245,346

Allowing Seniors to Receive Care at Home

Many seniors who require long-term care would prefer to receive that care in their own home or with a relative caregiver. For many, that is not an option due to Medicaid reimbursement rules. A federal program called ‘Money Follows the Person’ allows Medicaid funds to ‘follow the patient’ from nursing homes to more personalized settings. This year we expanded that program and made it more affordable by accessing more federal funding. It’s a win-win for seniors and taxpayers.



Grandparents and Relative Caregivers



Thousands of children across Connecticut are living in households led by their grandparents or other relatives. These caregivers need and deserve our support. This year we expanded state assistance for eligible families, helping them to afford such basic essentials as a bed, a winter coat, or even summer camp.



State Senator
Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol Phone: 1-800-842-1420
E-mail: Williams@senatedems.ct.gov
Web: www.SenatorWilliams.cga.ct.gov


Dear Neighbor:

By almost any measure, the nation is in a recession, and states across America are feeling the effects.

Connecticut faces these uncertain times with a biennial budget that makes important investments in local schools, roads, health care, school readiness, municipal aid, criminal justice programs, and other vital needs.

However, state revenue forecasts continue to drop, and just as Connecticut’s families are tightening their belts, so must our state government. While we held the line on spending during this past legislative session, we were still able to find ways to help the people of our state by enacting long-needed reforms in our criminal justice system, health care, consumer protection, and the environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore



I’m proud to represent the
29th Senate District:
Brooklyn
Canterbury
Putnam
Thompson
Windham
Scotland
Mansfield
Killingly

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Senate President Pro Tempore
Donald E. Williams, Jr.
29th District

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



Fighting the High Cost of Gasoline & Energy

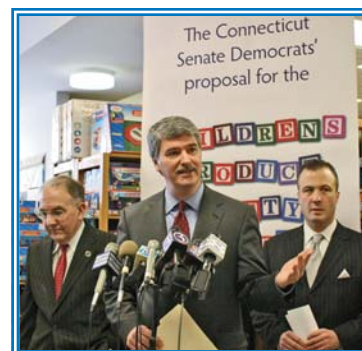
We all know that the cost of fuel is sky-high—affecting how much you pay for gas and groceries. While we can't stop fuel prices from rising, we can prevent tax increases from further driving up the cost. This June, we said NO to a scheduled increase in the gross receipts tax. By blocking this tax hike, we're hoping to save you a few cents on each gallon, and that adds up. We're also taking action to help seniors and working families survive the high cost of the looming home heating oil season.

I was joined by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal at a press conference in front of the State Capitol announcing these energy initiatives prior to our June 2008 special session.



Criminal Justice Reforms

We're all concerned with crime and keeping our family safe. We worked with Gov. Rell to create the new crime of 'home invasion', which carries a mandatory 10-year minimum prison term. We also doubled and tripled prison sentences for the most violent of criminals while simultaneously giving criminal justice professionals \$10 million they need to track sexual offenders, hire more investigators and increase funding for prisoner re-entry programs.



Toy Safety

We've all heard about recent toy recalls and wondered if the toys on store shelves are safe for our children. We approved legislation that bans children's toys and other products if they fail to comply with stricter limits for lead, and prohibits the sale of items marketed for children that contain asbestos. Connecticut stores must also post notices to inform consumers of recalled products.

Protecting Homeowners and Our Economy

Eastern Connecticut families have been hit hard by the national foreclosure crisis. People are losing their homes, neighbors are seeing their property values decline, and big lenders are reaping the benefits. This year I helped to pass a law that protects homeowners, helps to stabilize property values, and sends a strong message to those businesses which have engaged in predatory lending.



Keeping Jobs and Tax Revenue in Connecticut

It is shocking to find out how many of your tax dollars state government is spending to grow jobs in other states. I worked to enact a new law that gives an advantage to local companies when they are competing for state contracts against certain out-of-state companies. This common sense law will result in more jobs staying here in Connecticut.

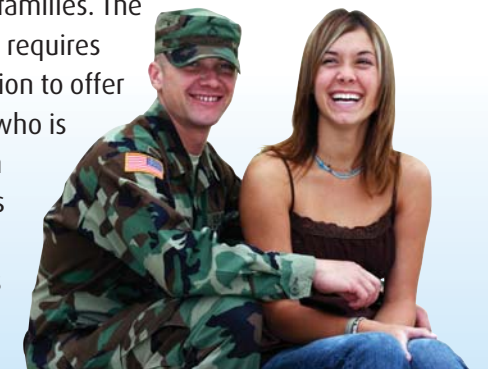


Health Care Initiatives For Women & Newborns

New and expectant mothers have enough to worry about without having to navigate a lot of red tape before getting health care coverage. The Senate voted to streamline the process for low-income pregnant women and mothers, helping them to obtain the prenatal care and newborn screening that is so critical for the health of their families.

Veterans' Benefits

We continue to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans and military personnel from Connecticut and their families. The General Assembly approved a bill that requires state-run institutions of higher education to offer tuition waivers for any state resident who is a dependent or surviving spouse of an active-duty military member who was killed in action after September 11, 2001. Another measure helps spouses if they leave their jobs because their military spouse has been relocated.



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